

Employee Spotlight

A Conversation with Christopher Bove Health Center Administrative Assistant

September 2024

Talk about your role within your program and how you contribute to its success.

“In my role as an Administrative Assistant to the Department of Strategic Initiatives, I provide a wide array of administrative support to EBCAP’s senior leadership, our Transgender Whole Healthcare Program, our team of Community Health Workers, and the Women, Infants and Children Program. I also support EBCAP’s Grants Team and the 340B Drug Pricing program that offers savings on prescription drug costs to our patients and clients.”

What motivates you to help those we serve?

“Though I did not grow up dreaming of starting my career at a non-profit, from an early age I always knew I wanted to spend my life in public service. Born legally blind to two teenage parents from modest backgrounds, I was drawn to advocacy and politics in my early teenage years and spent most of my time in high school and college working towards a career in government. I worked as an intern for former Governor Gina Raimondo, and later for Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and former Congressman David Cicilline. Additionally, I had the pleasure of serving as the President of the College Democrats of Rhode Island, as a member of the Middletown Affordable Housing Committee, and as the Secretary of the Middletown, and later Warwick, Democratic Parties.

When I began searching for my first job out of college, I had no idea that my search would lead me to EBCAP. In the early winter of 2024, I was searching for job opportunities in the field of constituent services/public relations, when I stumbled across a job posting for an Administrative Assistant at EBCAP. I knew all about EBCAP as I attended Head Start at the Chaffee Center in Newport as a child, and my family and I also benefited from the WIC Program,

Family Visiting, and EBCAP’s medical and dental services. Plus my best friend and college roommate worked as an EBCAP intern and I heard very good things about the agency from her and her mother, who is a member of the Communications Team. I figured, given my experiences as a former EBCAP client and patient and my experience working in politics and public affairs, I might be an ideal candidate. I also thought, it’s a Community Action Program, how different could it possibly be from working in government. My dream has always been to pursue public service to help improve the lives of everyday people like those from my own community who have been long overlooked and under supported. Though my first job is not in the office of an elected official as I had imagined, EBCAP’s commitment to serving the community makes me proud to be an employee and I cannot think of a better way to have started my career.”

What is it about EBCAP that you like best?

“There is so much that I love about EBCAP, from its commitment to bettering the lives of everyday people, investing in our communities, advocating for those who have been overlooked, and overall just being a great place to work. It’s difficult to determine one thing that I like most, but I’d say it’s the core belief of our senior leadership that every voice at our agency matters. As an entry level, brand new employee, I would’ve expected many of my ideas or insights to be overlooked. But since day one, I have always felt that the experience and insights I bring to the table have always been appreciated by EBCAP’s leaders. From our CEO, to our vice presidents, and every day staff, I have never once had one of my ideas dismissed, and have always been made to feel like a valued member

of the team, with my contributions to the agency holding the same value as anyone else’s. This is not something you find everywhere in the professional world, and I am so grateful to work for an agency that makes me feel valued and heard.”

What’s your proudest moment as an EBCAP employee?

“It’s a bit difficult to answer, as I take pride in my work every single day. Whether it’s working with the CHW team to find shelter for clients and keep them from sleeping on the street, or purchasing groceries for a family in need, or having completed an application for grant funding to support the needs of our patients, I come home every day feeling fulfilled at having made a difference even if it’s just in my own small way.

I’d say my proudest moment was just recently when I worked with Gwen Redmond on a grant for HRSA funding that would enable EBCAP to expand our clinical operating hours, allowing us to take on more patients awaiting care – as well as providing greater scheduling flexibility and other benefits to our clinical support staff.

However, if I were to choose my happiest moment at EBCAP, it was joining my Bullocks Point colleagues in taking time out of our day to go outside and view April’s much anticipated solar eclipse. I had been with the agency for less than a month, and this served as one of my first opportunities to meet my coworkers from outside of my own department. I remember the laughter, excitement, and comradery – realizing, how absolutely sure I was that I could not have ended up in a better place for my first job. I love working at EBCAP, and moments like these are why I wake up every single day happy to be a member of this team.”